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Letter dated 17 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Korean Peninsula issued on 17 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Korean Peninsula issued on 17 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the proposals made by President Kim Dae-jung in Berlin on 9 March 2000 for peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula. His Berlin declaration offers clear ways to move forward, and the European Union calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respond positively and constructively, and without preconditions. Meaningful direct dialogue between North and South Korea is vital to this process.

The European Union also calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to seize the opportunities offered by the planned high-level meeting with the United States of America to reduce tension and enhance regional stability.

A constructive approach by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on these two issues is crucial also to the development of its relations with European Union countries and with the European Union as a whole.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.